Recommended Core Data Set for Immunization Registries

This core data set was prepared in 1995 by the National Immunization Program (NIP) in consultation with the Immunization Grantee Working Group. It was reviewed by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), and recommendations of NVAC were incorporated. Contributions were also made by public health representatives and private providers.

The core data elements fall into two categories: required and optional. In addition, two functions for future consideration are presented here. Required core data elements are listed in bold print. These elements represent fundamental attributes necessary for identifying individuals and for describing immunization events. Required elements are critical to the record exchange process. Optional core data elements are less important for record exchange. Some optional items (e.g., address) may be useful only at the local level.

The purpose of the core data set is to facilitate record exchange between immunization registries. It is imperative that, at a minimum, each registry include in its database schema a method to receive and store all of the required core data elements, even if the registry does not routinely collect the information. Thus, if a registry receives a record from one system and subsequently transfers it to another, no required core data elements will be lost in the process. It is strongly recommended that immunization registries also collect data on all of the required core data elements for their own patients.

Listing of Core Data Set
(Required data elements are listed in **bold** print.)

Patient/System/State Identifiers
(Until a unique personal identifier can be established on a national basis, multiple means of identification must be used.)

> **Patient name: first, middle, last**
>
> Patient alias name: first, middle, last
> > (former names for management of adoptions and name changes)
>
> Patient address, phone number, birthing facility
> > (these variables should be locally defined)
>
> Patient Social Security number (SSN)
>
> **Patient birth date**
>
> **Patient sex**
>
> Patient race
>
> Patient primary language
>
> Patient birth order
>
> Patient birth registration number
>
> **Patient birth State/country**
>
> Patient Medicaid number
>
> **Mother's name: first, middle, last, maiden**
>
> Mother's SSN
>
> Father's name: first, middle, last
>
> Father's SSN

Immunization Event Identifiers

Vaccine type

(Use *HL7-defined Table 0292 - Vaccines Administered (code=CVX)* found in Appendix 1. Note that up-to-date versions of this table will be maintained on the NIP website at <www.cdc.gov/nip/registry>.)

Vaccine Manufacturer

(Use *HL7-defined Table 0227 - Manufacturers of vaccines (code=MVX)* found in Appendix 1. Note that up-to-date versions of this table will be maintained on the NIP website at <www.cdc.gov/nip/registry>.)

Vaccine dose number

NOTE: With a fully operating system, this variable is not needed. However, in the real world, and particularly during the initial startup phase, many systems will be gathering partial histories; therefore, to evaluate histories properly, dose number becomes very important. The ultimate goal would be to remove this variable from the core data set, within the first 2 to 3 years of system operation.

Vaccine expiration date

Vaccine injection site

Vaccination date

Vaccine lot number

Vaccine provider

Functions for Future Consideration

Vaccine adverse events monitoring

[Such events must be linkable to the existing national adverse events surveillance system, with immunization information systems having ability to electronically report, without redundant keying of information to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).]

Vaccine preventable disease reporting

[Such disease events must be linkable to existing local, state and national disease reporting systems, with the immunization information systems having ability to electronically report, without redundant keying of information to the appropriate disease reporting systems.]